

June 2013



Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau County FSA Updates

Grand Traverse Area FSA Office

1501 Cass Street, Ste A
Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231-941-0951
Fax: 855-292-1667

County Executive Director:
Gregory Shy

Farm Loan Manager:
James L. Monroe
Phone: 231-941-0951

Program Technicians:
Caleb Boge
Janet Howes
Jan Malik

County Committee:

Brent Wagner - Chair
David Noonan - Vice-chair
Bruce Cotton - Member
Joanne Gallagher - Member
Stanley Silverman - Member
Jaunita Send - Advisor

Important Dates To Remember

- **June 30th** - Final date for timely-filed certifications for fall-2012 seeded crops, Hay, and Mixed Forage for the 2013 Crop Year
- **July 4th** - Office closed in observance of Independence Day
- **July 15th** - Final date to certify spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and Hops
- **July 15th** - 2012 production reporting deadline for 2012 ACRE program
- **August 2nd** - 2013 DCP Sign-up ends
- **September 30th** - Final date to certify Christmas Trees, Nursery, and Turfgrass Sod

New Crop Certification Deadlines

- **November 15** - Perennial Forage (Alfalfa, Hay, Mixed Hay, Pasture), Fall-seeded Wheat, Rye, and all other fall seeded small grains
- **January 2** - Honey
- **January 15** - Apples, Asparagus, Blueberries, Cherries, Grapes, Peaches, Plums, Strawberries, and all other perennial orchard crops
- **February 1** - Maple Sap
- **July 15** - Spring seeded grains, spring planted row crops, and Hops
- **September 30** - Aquaculture, Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng, Mushrooms, Nursery & Turfgrass Sod

2013 County Committee (COC) Elections / Nominations

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Committees (COC) is an important process locally and a direct link between the agricultural community and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. COC members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the local producers and represent all constituents. FSA County Committees operate within official regulations and apply their judgment and knowledge in making local decisions on programs such as:

- Commodity price support programs
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

Nominations for the 2013 Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau County FSA office COC election will be accepted from producers in the following Local Administrative Areas (LAA):

- **LAA #3:** Grand Traverse County - Consists of Acme, East Bay, Garfield, Long Lake, and Whitewater Townships
- **LAA #5:** Kalkaska County – Consists of all Townships in Kalkaska County

All eligible voters are urged to consider seeking nominations for this important position. All agricultural producers and owners of agricultural land are eligible to vote. A farmer's spouse who is listed on the deed is also eligible to vote. Minority and female farmers are encouraged to take part in this important nomination process.

The COC nomination period is open from June 17, 2013 through August 1, 2013. The nomination form is available at USDA Service Centers or [online](#). For more information contact your local FSA County Office at (231) 941-0951, extension 2.

Who Can Hold Office?

To hold office as a COC member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria such as:

- Be a producer with an interest in a farming or ranching operation
- Participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be of legal voting age
- Reside in the LAA and County in which the election is being held

Along with the above eligibility requirements, a person must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of COC member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

FSA Signature Policy

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other. Some examples of exceptions include partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.

Individual signatures are also required on certain Farm Loan Program and Farm Storage Facility Loan documents.

For more clarification on spousal signature authority, feel free to contact your local FSA office.

2013 Crop and CRP Acreage Reports

Producers are required to file an FSA-578, Report of Acreage, to certify planted acres by the final dates (listed below) to be considered eligible for the following benefits:

- Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP)
- Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Commodity Loans
- Loan Deficiency Program (LDP)
- Non-insurable Crop Disaster Program (NAP)

2013 Reporting Dates for spring planted crops:

July 15, 2013-CRP, Forage seeding, and all other spring-seeded crops.

- **Please call for an appointment** so we can pull your records prior to your visit. If we are prepared for your visit it will take less time for you in the office...thank you!!

2013 Crops past the Reporting Dates:

November 15, 2012-Perennial Forage, and other Fall seeded Grains (including wheat and rye)

- Due to a change in certification dates, there is a one-time waiver of the late file fee for 2013 fall-seeded crops not timely certified by the November 15, 2012 deadline. If you planted alfalfa, wheat or rye last fall but have not reported it, you may still report it without penalty. However, the deadline to report alfalfa, wheat, and rye planted this fall will be November 15, 2013. A late file penalty will be assessed if you miss this deadline.

Due to budgetary concerns, **reminder postcards to certify your acreage will NOT be sent.** Please remind your friends and neighbors.

Selected Interest Rates for June 2013

90-Day Treasury Bill; 0.125%

Farm Operating Loans — Direct; 1.250%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct; 3.375%

Emergency Loans; 2.250%

Farm Ownership-Limited Resource Loans; 5.00%

Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher; 1.50%

Farm Storage Facility Loans; 1.25% (7 yrs.), 1.750% (10 yrs.), 2.000% (12 yrs.)

Commodity Loans 1996-Present; 1.125%

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